



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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December 27, 2006

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *jm*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HV GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of HV Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by HV Group Home, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

HV Group Home is a 29-bed facility, which provides care for boys and girls ages 12 –17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, HV Group Home was providing services for ten DCFS children, ten Probation children, four privately placed children, one Fresno County child, one Kern County child, one Madera County child, and one Orange County child.

HV Group Home is located in the Fourth District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

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services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement.

HV Group Home needs to maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Anthony Brown, Executive Director, HV Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**HV Group Home
490 West 14th Street
Long Beach, California 90813
Phone: (562) 591-8701
License Number: 197803075
Rate Classification Level: 14**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

HV Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, five children do not have current authorizations for the psychotropic medications they are taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

- 1. HV Group Home management provide current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.**

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size: Three

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Three

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

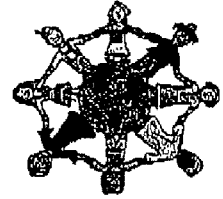
The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.



H.V. GROUP HOME, INC.

480 W. 14TH Street - Long Beach, CA 90813
Phone: (562) 591-8701 -- Fax: (562) 591-6841

June 29, 2006

County Of Los Angeles
Department of Auditor-Controller
Childrens Group Home Ombudsman
500 W. temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles Ca. 90012-2766

Ms. Jacqueline Hayes:

Enclosed you will find the Corrective Action Plan in response to the recent audit completed on or about April 19th, 2006. The following detailed information has been implemented to insure that this facility remains in compliance with requirements and in accordance with recommendations made by the Auditor-Controller.

Effective May 4th 2006, H.V. Group Home will insure that all Psychotropic Medications for resident's receiving such are current and are approved by the Children's Court.

Psychotropic Authorization forms are complete and accurate and that such medications are prescribed in sufficient dosages and in accordance with needs and circumstances of the minor also that doses are not outside of the appropriate range for safe administration. (including any PRN or As Needed dosage).

H. V. Group Home will implement the following protocol to insure that compliance in the areas described is maintained.

- The Facility Manager will review all Psychotropic Authorization forms and will insure that the form is completed, accurate and that medication dose and range is appropriate.
- The facility Manager will on a weekly basis review and monitor current medications for changes and accuracy and will maintain a log to track/ insure authorization forms are sent to the court in a timely manner for proper review.
- All charts will include an updated authorization form date stamped and approved by the court.

If any additional information is required Please do not hesitate to contact me at (562) 5918701 ext. 227.

Thank you,


Maryam Ribadi, MBA
Administrator/CEO